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*Plague in Johannesburg.*

The following is received through Consul Proffit at Pretoria, under date of May 6, 1904:

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,  
*Johannesburg, May 5, 1904.*

HON. JOSEPH E. PROFFIT,  
*U. S. Consul, Pretoria.*

SIR: I am directed by His Excellency Lord Milner to express his regret that, through an oversight, no official notification was made to your Government through you of the outbreak of plague in Johannesburg. Such notification is, as you are doubtless aware, enjoined by article 6 of the Venice International Sanitary Convention of March 19, 1897, which was ratified by your Government.

I am to express the hope that you will excuse the delay and take this letter as a fulfillment of the formal obligations of the convention.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

G. GEOFFERY ROBINSON,  
*Private Secretary.*

*Report from Lourenço Marquez—Danger of importation of plague from Johannesburg.*

Consul Hollis reports, May 2, as follows:

A number of destitute and half-starved people are constantly arriving here from Johannesburg.

These people travel partly on foot and partly in empty freight cars. As they do not arrive by passenger trains they are not observed by the railway quarantine officials, and no precautions are taken to prevent such people from bringing the germs of the plague here.

These men generally come here with the intention of working their passages by vessel from this port to some other part of the world.

ARABIA.

*Report from Aden—History of plague outbreak.*—Consul Masterson reports, May 18, as follows:

On May 9, two suspicious cases of fever were noticed among employees in the shop of Cowasjee Dinshaw & Bros. at Steamer Point. The port surgeon, Lieutenant-Colonel Monks, was immediately notified. He ordered the men placed on Quarantine Island and every precaution was taken to prevent the spread of the disease. As a further precaution, the port surgeon issued the following notice (No. 1) to all shipping firms and consuls:

(No. 1).

NOTICE.

As suspected cases of plague are at present in this settlement and as bill of health must be annotated accordingly, I would advise all homeward-bound ships not to communicate with this port for the present if they can avoid doing so.

To obtain a certificate of noncommunication a ship must coal and work strictly in quarantine; that is, no boarding clerks, no coolies, and in fact no person of any sort

should go on board; or if they must go on board they should go into quarantine afterwards.

In no other way can any vessel hope to get pratique on Egypt.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. MONKS.

ADEN, *May 9, 1904.*

Immediately upon the receipt of notice No. 1, I wrote to the political resident, Maj. Gen. P. J. Maitland, asking him to officially inform me if plague had really broken out in Aden, to which I received the following reply (No. 2):

2.

ADEN RESIDENCY, *May 9, 1904.*

THE CONSUL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *Aden.*

SIR: In reply to your letter of to-day's date inquiring as to the rumored outbreak of plague in Aden, I have the honor to state that two suspicious cases of fever have occurred in the settlement. It has been thought advisable to take every precaution, but as the patients have been over six months in Aden and no source of plague infection can absolutely be traced, it is possible the cases may turn out to be simple fever. If any future cases of true or suspected plague occur they will be reported in due course.

Your most obedient servant,

J. DAVIES, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

On May 13 a man was found in a back street with every indication of plague—buboes, fever, and delirium—and on May 14 I received the following notification (No. 3), which officially declared that bubonic plague was present.

NOTICE.

ADEN RESIDENCY, *May 14, 1904.*

Plague having broken out in Aden it is ordered that the head of the family or the holder of the house in which death occurs shall immediately report the circumstances to the registrar of deaths.

2. Immediately on receipt of a report the registrar of deaths in Crater will at once send a report to the civil surgeon and the registrar of deaths at Maalla and at Tawahi to the port surgeon.

3. The said medical officers will arrange to furnish certificates, both by day and night, to that effect if the cause of death is not plague.

4. The registrar of deaths on being satisfied from the medical certificates that the cause of death is not plague will issue the usual permit for burial.

5. When the death has been certified to be from plague the burial will take place under the orders of the civil and port surgeons.

6. Persons disobeying these orders will be severely punished.

By order,

J. DAVIES,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, First Assistant Resident.*

I at once gave notice to all merchants that all goods shipped to the United States must be thoroughly disinfected according to Treasury regulations of date November 22, 1895, but this notice was hardly necessary, as, according to the quarantine regulations governing the shipment of goods and passengers, no goods or passengers are allowed on board a vessel bound for European ports.

There have been no new cases of plague since May 13, and as every precaution has been taken and as this is the wrong time of the year for the spread of the disease, I am inclined to think that there will be few more, if any, new cases. However, I shall send weekly notices as to the state of health at this port until it is declared a clean port again.

Two of the three plague cases were fatal.